



# Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society — Kern County Chapter  
May/June 2009

## (OUT-GOING) PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just a note to thank all of you who have helped our organization for the last four years when I served as your President! I have learned so much and made such good friends through the work and activities we have done together. And I never would have made all the native plant friends from all over the state if I had not been encouraged to take the leap and Just Do It!

I also want to thank the people who have agreed to take on the Committee Chair and Officer positions for this coming term, most especially Dorie Giragosian, our candidate for President. She volunteered, and has so many ideas that I know she will move us forward, as well as keep us together. We are going to appreciate her great sense of humor, too! I encourage all of our members to join in and help make Dorie's new job a little bit easier by volunteering for a few hours a month.

LUCY CLARK

## FROM OUR WEBPAGES: March 26, 2009

I just wanted to thank you for posting plant lists on your site. A few of us are going down to Wind Wolves and continuing a loop up the Kern Canyon to Short Canyon, Mojave, Lancaster. I'm printing a couple of lists from your web site so we can have those in hand when we hike. I'm in Marin County and we also post our plant lists for the entire county. Here's the link should you ever need it:

[www.marin.edu/cnps/MarinCNPS\\_Plant\\_Lists.html](http://www.marin.edu/cnps/MarinCNPS_Plant_Lists.html)

Best,  
Terry Sullivan

## Thank You!

Bonnie East - for running the Educational Table at the Green Living event in the Lake Isabella area, and Bonnie for making a presentation on Gardening with Natives

Bonnie East, Natively Yours landscape Design - for helping the Kern Wildlife Refuge design and plant their new Native Garden

Ellen Cypher - for leading the field trips to the Tejon Ranch

Bonnie East, Dorie Giragosian, Lorraine Unger - For running the Educational Table at the Bakersfield College Horticulture Fest

Debby Kroeger - for taking responsibility for the Educational Table at the Green Thumb Gardeners event at the East Hills Mall, and winning us the First Place Prize for an Educational exhibit

All who have renewed their CNPS membership

### DID YOU KNOW

that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices.

[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

Click on the JOIN button

# Plant Science Workshops,



# Training Program 2009

<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/>

## **May 29-31, Rare Plants of San Luis Obispo County**

Instructors: David Keil PhD, Deb Hillyard, Kevin Merk

Location: San Luis Obispo and coastal locations

(Please see the article on **page 4**)

## **June 10-12 Introduction to the second edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation***

Primary Instructors and authors: Todd Keeler Wolf, John O. Sawyer, Julie Evens

Location: A 3-day transect across the central Sierra Nevada, from the foothills to the eastern Sierra. We will begin at Calaveras Big Trees and end at Grover Hot Springs Valley, near Markleeville. See

[www.scenic4.org/map.html](http://www.scenic4.org/map.html)

Course Description: The authors will debut the greatly expanded second edition of *A Manual of California Vegetation*. They will provide an overview of additions and changes to the manual, including new vegetation types recognized or redefined across many habitats. You will learn how to use the new manual, in the field as we traverse a variety of vegetation types in the Sierra Nevada, as well as its uses for conservation and management.

Cost: Members \$445    Non-members \$470

## **June 23-26 Great Rivers of California: the American River**

Primary Instructors: Robert Holland and Virginia Dains

Location: Headwaters, mid-elevation and valley sections of the American River.

Course Description: Azonal vegetation is shaped by processes other than regional biota and climate.

Riparian vegetation is shaped by the agency of flowing water, both during high flows (when the habitat is sculpted) and during low flows (providing late summer irrigation). This class will focus on how stream dynamics and sediment transport structure riparian habitats, taught from a floating classroom.

The first day we will float from Fair Oaks to Goethe Park on the lower American River, observing how the current affects our boats, the river's substrate, and the vegetation along a low-gradient valley stream.

The second day we will repeat the process upstream, floating the South Fork American from Coloma to Lotus, a steepland stream with all together different riparian vegetation. Licensed, professional guides will captain our rafts both days. For an optional over-night third leg we will goat pack into the American's headwaters in Desolation Valley, where riparian vegetation manifests the additional complication of persistent winter snowpack. The emphasis throughout the class will be more on the processes that shape the vegetation and less on binomial nomenclature.

## **August 12-14<sup>th</sup>, Vegetation Rapid Assessment:**

Primary Instructors: Todd Keeler Wolf, Eric Peterson, Jennifer Buck

Location: Donner Summit

Course Description: The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), present a Vegetation Rapid Assessment workshop near Donner Summit. The course will be a combination of lecture and field exercises in vegetation sampling. The course will focus on collecting data using the CNPS Rapid Assessment protocol. We will discuss applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping, how to document rare natural communities, and how vegetation information fits into planning documents.

Cost: Members \$365    Non-members \$390

(continued on page 5)

## MEETINGS

**Tuesday, May 19** at the KC Superintendent's Office at the corner of L and 17<sup>th</sup> Street at 5:30 pm. Parking is available in the parking garage accessible from 18<sup>th</sup>.

There will be no identification of plants tonight.

What are you looking for in your Kern Chapter of CNPS, starting this year? Your answers to that question, as well as getting to know you and our new President and her Board are our purposes for this evening. Dorie has so many ideas and so much energy; she volunteered to run for President, because she "didn't want the group to die." Please come and support our new President to be, and offer the best ideas you can come up with. (And don't worry that if you have an idea, we will ask you to carry it out!) This is a brain-storming session, information gathering, and every one of you is important to the future of the Kern County Chapter. We will talk and partake of refreshments. Chocolate included.

Dear CNPS Kern County Members,

My name is Dorie, and if able to overpower my opposition, and am elected, I will be the new club prez. Our next All Member Meeting has been booked for May 19th from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Superintendent of Schools office, downtown. Yeah!! Mark your calendars!

We are trying to get the club back on track. I hope many of you will be able to make it to the meeting on the 19th. In preparation for that meeting, I would like you to please think about what things you would like the club to do this next year. At the meeting, I hope we can talk about ideas for programs, speakers, trips, what you want to get from the club. This will help get me/us started in the right direction.

We still have some committee positions vacant. I will list them, so you can mull over the possibility of perhaps filling one of the jobs yourself, if you can give us the time. If two people want to share a job, that is fine, too. That way, if someone is sick, or out of town, we can keep things going. According to the list Lucy sent me, the following chairpersonships are still available:

Programs § Plant ID-ing § Field Trips § Plant Communities § Education/Outreach

If you have any friends who have expressed interest in joining the CNPS, invite them to the meeting. With several of us being relatively new, it would be a good time to go ahead and add any more who are interested, and we can "invite them to help on committees!". There will probably be several new people at the 5/19 meeting. I had about 15 people give me contact information at the Green Fest at Bakersfield College, and I will let them know about the meeting date.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone, and getting to know you. I hope to see you all, soon.

Sincerely, Dorie Giragosian

It is time for the election of chapter officers.

The following people have volunteered to fill these positions. Please participate by voting!

### KERN CNPS BALLOT FOR 2009-2010

**President - Dorie Giragosian**

**Treasurer - Kathy Sharum**

**Secretary - Laura Stockton**

Please circle the names of your choices, cut off this ballot, and mail to:  
(email subscribers may email their choices, or print this page out and mail it in.  
Please email me for my address)

Stephen Cooley

[mimulusmemo@bak.rr.com](mailto:mimulusmemo@bak.rr.com)

## Other Native Plant Events

### Rare Plants of Coastal San Luis Obispo County workshop

May 29-30, 2009, San Luis Obispo

Dr. David Keil, Deborah Hillyard, and Kevin Merk



**Course Description:** The distinct combination of climate, soils and topography of coastal San Luis Obispo County are the foundation of the unique array of natural communities, which in turn support a wide variety of endemic, rare and endangered plant species. This workshop will utilize both classroom and field exploration of various local coastal communities, such as serpentine seep, grassland and chaparral; coastal dunes; coast live oak woodlands, including the local "elfin forest"; estuarine marsh; maritime chaparral; and coastal prairie. Learn to recognize these communities and their associated species, and which laws and regulations apply to their conservation.

**COST: CNPS members: \$ 310      Non-members: \$ 335**

For registration and for more information about this and other CNPS workshops, go to: [www.cnps.org/cnps/education](http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education). Last day to cancel your registration and receive a 50% refund is May 15, 2009. After May 15, we will not be able to refund your registration fee, regardless of personal or professional emergencies.

## An Invitation from the Internet

I am attaching information for a new "green" gardening site that will be of interest to you. Members of native plant societies and wildlife forums are being sent personal invitations to check us out. We're new but we're pretty sure you'll like what you see. [www.wildlifegardeners.org](http://www.wildlifegardeners.org)

Our site is attracting native flora and fauna enthusiasts. The forums are user friendly and easy to navigate. Uploading images is a snap and they are automatically resized to a thumbnail within a post and there is no need for an off-site photo storage host.

In addition to educational forums, we have created an area specifically for environmentally responsible individuals and organizations where they may be able to share any information they'd like about their organization to include a direct link to their site and contact information. This is a great area for local Audubon chapters, native plant societies, nature centers, native plant nurseries, wildlife rehabbers, organizations such as Wild Ones, and even "green" bloggers. Hope being others who are like minded will use this area as a resource. If you know of a "green" person or any "green" organization that might benefit from such exposure, please feel free to forward this to them. The strings attached to the above offer would be that those who are given a free slot be "green" and that they try their best to share their gifts and talents when possible by posting in the forums a little bit and particularly if they see someone who could use a helping hand. It's a great thing when knowledge and experience can be shared.

We offer an events calendar. It is editable by registered members. We welcome anyone who has knowledge of native plants sales, symposiums, or workshops to share details with our members.

Please do share this e-mail with any native plant enthusiasts, wildlife gardeners, birders, organic gardeners, or anyone interested in sustainable practices that you may know.

Cheers, David Fearless Weeder

## Plant Science Training Program Workshops, 2009 (continued from page 2)

### Sept 29-Oct 1, Legends of the Fall: exploring the clandestine flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave

Primary Instructors: James M. Andre & Tasha La Doux

Location: UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center

Course Description: Few botanists journey out in the late summer or early fall in search of colorful blooms of California's desert plants. Yet the early fall bloom in the eastern Mojave Desert can be more reliable than the more popular spring blooms. Approximately 10% of eastern Mojave annuals are considered "summer annuals", species that germinate following the monsoonal cloudbursts of summer, grow rapidly, and complete the life cycle before temperatures decline sharply in fall. In addition, many perennial species flower in early fall, particularly those of the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Polygonaceae. This course will introduce botanists to the ecology and taxonomy of the diverse flora of early fall in the eastern Mojave Desert, with special emphasis on rare or unique species. Participants should have moderate to advanced taxonomic skills. Field trips will include moderate to short day hikes.

### October 13-15 Vegetation Mapping:

Primary Instructors: Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evens, Anne Klein, and Jennifer Buck, Rachelle Boul

Location: Mulford Hall, UC Berkeley and Marin Municipal Water District, Fairfax

Course Description: Please join CNPS and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for a three-day, vegetation mapping workshop, hosted by University of California Berkeley's Geospatial Imaging and Informatics facility and Marin Municipal Watershed District (MMWD), Mount Tamalpais. This workshop will be a combination of field and computer exercises in fine-scale vegetation mapping. Participants will learn about vegetation sampling, classification, and photo interpretation. They will collect reconnaissance samples to support a *Vegetation* classification and map and practice techniques of photo interpretation, delineation, and attribution. They will use accuracy assessment to validate a vegetation map.

**The Plant Science Training Program** provides workshops for professional botanists, biologists, and ecologists to teach the skills and provide the tools and resources for conducting sound scientific surveys for rare plants, rare plant communities, vegetation, and wetlands.

**For further information about the Plant Science Training Program or to register go to**

**<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>**

**or contact Josie Crawford at [jcrawford@cnps.org](mailto:jcrawford@cnps.org) or (916) 447-2677 ext 205.**

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## New CNPS Conservation Program Director

Following an extensive search, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Greg Suba as the new CNPS Conservation Program Director! Greg will be responsible for coordinating the development of conservation program initiatives and policies for the society.

Prior to joining CNPS, Greg worked to protect sensitive habitats at the urban / open space interface as watershed coordinator for the Laguna Creek Watershed Council in Sacramento County. His past work includes investigating reproductive strategies of seagrass populations along the west coast of North America, surveying forest inventory plots in California's National Forests, assessing riparian ecosystem health throughout Sacramento, El Dorado, and Placer Counties, and developing outdoor education and stewardship programs throughout northern California. Greg received his B.S. in Biology from Duke University, his M.S. in Marine Science from UNC-Chapel Hill, and continues to learn from those with whom he works, lives, and plays.

Greg will be starting his work with CNPS on May 1. Please join me in welcoming Greg into the CNPS family of staff and volunteers.

Tara Hansen, Executive Director, California Native Plant Society

# Check Out Our Webpage!

[www.KernCNPS.org](http://www.KernCNPS.org)



CNPS – Kern County Chapter  
 % Stephen Cooley, Editor  
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## INTERNET EDITION

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through science, education, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.